

Tunnel under Egypt could lead to Cleopatra's tomb

14th November, 2022



Egypt is a land of eternal mystery and wonder. It is a paradise for archaeologists hoping to unearth the latest ancient marvel. Archaeologists at an extensive excavation near the northern Egyptian city of Alexandria have just made such a discovery.

Kathleen Martinez, an archaeologist at the University of Santo Domingo, has dedicated most of her life to searching for the long-lost tomb of Queen Cleopatra. The queen ruled over Egypt more than 1,000 years ago. Earlier this week, Martinez and her team stumbled upon an amazing find. They uncovered a 1,305-metre tunnel, located 13 metres underground. Architectural design experts have called it an "engineering miracle".

Ms Martinez was elated at the find. She told the CNN news agency about what she found, besides the tunnel. She said: "The excavation revealed a huge religious centre with three sanctuaries, a sacred lake, more than 1,500 objects, statues, golden pieces, and a huge collection of coins portraying Alexander the Great and Queen Cleopatra." Martinez's quest to find Queen Cleopatra's tomb began in 2005. She said: "My perseverance should not be confused with obsession. I simply admire Cleopatra as a historical character." Martinez spoke of the potential importance of her team's work. She said that if the tunnel leads to Cleopatra's tomb, "it will be the most important discovery of the century".

Sources: cnn.com / newsweek.com / archaeology.org

Writing

Governments need to spend more money on uncovering our history. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Egypt / mystery / paradise / archaeologist / tomb / Cleopatra / tunnel / miracle / elated / excavation / sacred / lake / coins / quest / perseverance / obsession

True / False

- 1) The article says Egypt is a paradise for archaeologists. T / F
- 2) The tunnel was found near the ancient site of Luxor. T / F
- 3) The tunnel is 13 km long. T / F
- 4) Engineering experts called the tunnel an archaeological miracle. T / F
- 5) The archaeologist was elated at unearthing the tunnel. T / F
- 6) The tunnel contained coins with Cleopatra's face on them. T / F
- 7) An archaeologist has been searching for Cleopatra's tomb since 2005. T / F
- 8) The tunnel leads to Cleopatra's tomb. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. wonder | a. dig |
| 2. unearth | b. devoted |
| 3. dedicated | c. specialists |
| 4. ruled | d. respect |
| 5. experts | e. discover |
| 6. excavation | f. reigned |
| 7. sacred | g. search |
| 8. quest | h. momentousness |
| 9. admire | i. amazement |
| 10. importance | j. holy |

Discussion – Student A

- a) Why is Egypt such a land of mystery and wonder?
- b) What do you think of archaeology?
- c) Why is the work of archaeologists important?
- d) What do you think of the latest discovery?
- e) What do you know about Cleopatra?
- f) How great would it be to find Cleopatra's tomb?
- g) What would you like to dedicate your life to?
- h) What is the greatest sight in Egypt?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Egypt is a land of eternal | a. the long-lost tomb |
| 2. It is a paradise | b. Alexander the Great |
| 3. Archaeologists at an extensive | c. upon an amazing find |
| 4. dedicated most of her life to searching for | d. at the find |
| 5. Martinez and her team stumbled | e. of the century |
| 6. Ms Martinez was elated | f. mystery and wonder |
| 7. a huge religious centre | g. tomb |
| 8. a huge collection of coins portraying | h. excavation |
| 9. Queen Cleopatra's | i. with three sanctuaries |
| 10. the most important discovery | j. for archaeologists |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- When was the last time you were elated?
- What do you think about what archaeologists found in the tunnel?
- Have you ever been obsessed by anything?
- Would you like to see an exhibition of the things found in the tunnel?
- What archaeological finds have been discovered in your country?
- Would you like to be an archaeologist in your country?
- What questions would you like to ask the archaeologists?

Spelling

- a land of eatrneI mystery and wonder.
- unearth the latest tnciean marvel
- at an extensive avixeoctna
- tiadcedde most of her life to searching
- sldubemt upon an amazing find
- design eptrsxe
- Ms Martinez was laeted at the find
- three urscsieaant
- 1,500 objects, eustsat, golden pieces
- coins tnariypro Alexander the Great
- My aenreprcsvee should not be confused
- the tneiploat importance of her team's work

Answers – Synonym Match

1. i	2. e	3. b	4. f	5. c
6. a	7. j	8. g	9. d	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Egypt

You think Egypt is the best place to visit for archaeology. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Mexico, England or Kenya.

Role B – Mexico

You think Mexico is the best place to visit for archaeology. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Egypt, England or Kenya.

Role C – England

You think England is the best place to visit for archaeology. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Mexico, Egypt or Kenya.

Role D – Kenya

You think Kenya is the best place to visit for archaeology. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Mexico, England or Egypt.

Speaking – Archaeology

Rank these with your partner. Put the best countries for archaeology at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| • Egypt | • India |
| • Lebanon | • England |
| • Mexico | • Kenya |
| • China | • Australia |

Answers – True False

1 T	2 F	3 F	4 F	5 T	6 T	7 T	8 F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.